

Dec. 23 - 29, 2013
Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Heavy rains fell across much of the state on December 23. Flooding was prevalent in many regions. This provided a vast array of waterfowl habitat allowing birds to disperse and exploit newly flooded food resources making for extremely challenging hunting. The key to success was finding a concentration of birds. If you were fortunate and found some birds this was usually a one-time hunt because birds would relocate to new areas. The more successful hunters were continually following birds to these new locations.

Ground counts are sparse because of the Christmas holidays. Below is a list of counts from those areas staff were able to report on.

Hunting outlook remains mixed for the week ahead. A strong cold front pushing down from the Arctic will result in a freeze of many shallow water wetlands forcing birds to seek larger bodies of open water. Hunters pursuing birds on these larger waters should be cautious and wear flotation devices.

KDFWR wishes everyone a Happy New Year. Good hunting!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	53,340 ducks 875 CG 8,700 WFG	78% mallard, 8% gadwall, 5% ring-necked duck remainder wigeon, green-winged teal, pintail and black duck.	8" rain resulted in flash flooding on public and private lands. Some MSU's overtopped, others filled to good levels. The weather this past week has been rain with warm temps to freezing. Birds not moving much during the day, feeding at night with the full moon. Week 4 of quota hunts. Since Christmas we have had more hunters.
Birdsville Island	No count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes	No Count		
Duck Island	No Count		
Boatwright WMA	44,680 ducks 22 CG	78% mallard, 13% pintail, 6% green-winged teal, remainder unknown dabblers.	Most of the Swan unit is the same as Ballard
Doug Travis WMA	600 ducks	98% mallard.	Presently flooded by Mississippi River but as of 12/26 the area can still be hunted at areas. The ducks are widely spread out.
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	No count		

Sloughs WMA	4,000 ducks 7,000 SG 750 CG	Nearly all mallard.	Access to Crenshaw and Duncan II tract is possible, access to lower bottoms is limited due to flood. The river is expected to crest Sat. and start a slow fall. Ducks have left the refuge unit and spread out in flood waters.
Yellowbank WMA	No count		
Hardin County	175 Sandhill Cr.		
Larue County	750 Sandhill Cr.		
Barren River Lake	No waterfowl count 750 Sandhill Cr.		Lake 13.1' above summer pool. Up 1.8 feet in last 24 hours, SHCs roosting in shallow water across from Lucas Cove.
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	No count		
Herrington Lake	No count		
Taylorsville Lake	25 duck 32 CG	60% pintail, 40% black duck	%' above summer pool. Flooded timber along shoreline and back of embayments
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No count		
Green River WMA	No count		
Cave Run Lake	No count		